

No more stayers (8%) than school leavers (9%) report ever having felt addicted to a drug or substance, and there is no statistically significant difference in the percentages of respondents who felt they were currently addicted to a drug or substance. These are partial indicators of immediate need for AOD treatment. This suggests that school leavers and stayers have similar levels of AOD treatment need.

Stayers (37%) are no more likely than school leavers (40%) to have ever experienced one or more AOD-related problems (Table 6), yet **more types of AOD-related problems have been experienced by school leavers**. School leavers are not different in their propensity to drive after drinking alcohol, or to drive after heavy drinking, but they more often drive after taking a psychoactive drug.

Particular AOD-related life problems differentiate the two educational status groups. These AOD-related problems are significantly more likely to have been experienced by school leavers in Tennessee:

- having lost or quit a job due to AOD
- having lost or ruined a friendship due to AOD
- having been separated or divorced due to AOD
- having had household trouble related to AOD
- having engaged in arguments or fights due to AOD
- having had financial problems related to AOD
- being arrested for DUI, other alcohol-related, and drug-related offenses.

Thus, despite similarities in alcohol consumption and no greater overall problem or addiction rates, school leavers are much more likely to have experienced certain AOD-related life problems than have stayers. Reasons for this difference may include -- less coping skills among those who are less well-educated; relative lack of resources, financial, emotional, social to avert or ameliorate problems. Less well-educated residents of Tennessee also may be more likely to come into contact with the criminal justice system because they are caught more readily or targeted more easily by law enforcement officers.

VI. Other Variables Considered by Educational Status

The social context of drinking alcohol differs somewhat by educational status, such that **school leavers are less likely to drink in private clubs, or in restaurants than stayers**. School leavers are as likely to drink in their own homes or someone else's homes as are stayers. (Table 7).

Fewer school leavers than stayers went to a restaurant, bar or lounge where alcohol was served in the past 12 months prior to the survey. Once there, however, no more leavers drank alcoholic beverages (62% for both groups). Both groups were similarly likely